GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:469
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
REQUEST OF GUJARAT ON BT COTTON .
DINSHA J. PATEL

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Biotechnology Coordination Committee, Gujarat has requested the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) to reconsider their order on BT cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of final decision taken in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a)& (b)Yes, Sir. The Gujarat State Biotechnology Coordination Committee (SBCC) requested the Genetic Engineering Approva Committee (GEAC) to reconsider GEAC`s order dated 18.10.01, in view of the practical difficulties in implementing the order.

(c)The GEAC in its meeting held on 31.10.2001, considered the request of SBCC and directed the SBCC to:

+ procure the cotton bolls of Navbharat 151 crop from the farmers at the appropriate support price; + separate the lint and seed; + destroy the seed and store the lint in safe custody till further orders from GEAC; + complete destruction of crop residue by uprooting and burning and sanitation of fields.